Dear ANDRUS Community,

Welcome to a brand new school year! It is hard to believe we are already heading towards the season of cooler temperatures, changing leaves, and thankful gatherings. It’s my hope we all do so with the sense of optimism and possibility that is the hallmark of the ANDRUS legacy.

As always, it is important for us to take the time to be reflective and highlight our recent accomplishments. The Board of Directors wrapped up an extensive Strategic Planning process that asked some tough questions, but helped us build goals and milestones towards the future success of ANDRUS. Inherently, the value of our work at ANDRUS is connected to both the day-to-day operations of providing safe, nurturing care for the children and families we serve. We must constantly ascertain our ability to plan for the future within an external environment that is rapidly changing. We have been a trusted provider of preventive and restorative programs and services to children and families for nearly 90 years. Yet, we know the challenges over the next three to five years are many, such as shrinking government resources, the emerging changes in healthcare as a result of the Medicaid redesign and outcomes based reimbursement - just to name a few. These are challenges that all organizations like ours will face, and it is up to us to lead the field and show we can make a positive impact, however difficult the external factors may be.

I am energized by these challenges because I know we can navigate through them! As we get ready to launch the Strategic Plan and prepare for the future, our biggest strength is our ability to work together, persevere, and make the difference. As always, on behalf of our children and their families, thank you for all the ways that you help ANDRUS to move our mission forward.

Respectfully,

Bryan Murphy

VISION & MISSION

ANDRUS nurtures hope in children by providing care that empowers them to succeed and by promoting innovation and standards of excellence in the care of children in our community and beyond.

ANDRUS nurtures social and emotional wellbeing in children and their families by delivering a broad range of vital services and by providing research, training and innovative program models that promote standards of excellence for professional performance in and beyond our service community.
PARENT UNIVERSITY
A new ANDRUS initiative from the Community Division is bringing home visiting to the doorstep of our residential clients.

The program is funded through a two year grant from the Van Amerigen Group.

The launch date for the program was July 11, 2016. The home visiting team will be working with 8 to 10 of our kids that were identified by the clinical team.

The team plans to collaborate very closely with the child’s treatment team by developing relationships with the clinical team, MTs, program managers, etc. They will periodically attend cottage team meetings in order to immerse themselves in the treatment and structure of the child they are serving.

Striving for Excellence is ANDRUS’ theme this year and what better way to demonstrate that than the launching of a new pilot program, Parent University. Parent University is a collaboration between our Community Division and Residential Program where staff from our Community Division will provide home visiting services for some of our Residential clients. The team is comprised of Supervisor Fabiola Abreu and two home visitors Kelly Thompson and Mary Morla.

The work will start by developing relationships with both the child and the parent/guardian first and then bringing them together in the home.

The PU team will be conducting various assessments such as the Protective Factor Survey and ACES. Each family will have their own goal plan based on the SELF model and will receive services for approximately six months. Clients identified for the program are about to be discharged or are close to beginning the discharge planning.

For more information about the program please contact Fabiola Abreu, fabreu@jdam.org
THE COLORADO MODEL: SANCTUARY IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Almost 3 years ago, the Sanctuary Model was brought to the state of Colorado’s Juvenile Justice System to bring about positive change for both the children and the staff in various facilities. Having now expanded to all 10 of Colorado’s justice facilities, as well as 6 offices, the state can proudly say that the juvenile justice system as a whole is trauma informed, the care is trauma responsive, and all of these changes include slightly adapted methods of The Sanctuary Model. As the three-year contract comes to a close, Joe Benamati and Jaye Holly continue to do workshops with key administrators and leadership, while meeting with children and staff for feedback on the implementation of Sanctuary. With community meetings, safety plans, and much more in place, the reported feedback has been extremely positive. The youth have mentioned that the changes have enabled them to know what is going on with their peers, and has given them a better understanding of boundaries, and when their peers may need some space. Focus groups with staff and children will continue, and a committee has been designed to look at policies across the State of Colorado, revamping the language to include more of the Sanctuary principles. With a strong base in Sanctuary principles, and consultation and focus groups to continue, the future looks bright for “The Colorado Model”.

THE GRAF SENSORY BARN OPENS WITH RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

What a moment - the ribbon is cut for the brand new Graf Sensory Barn!

For as long as most can remember, the stone barn behind The Orchard School served as extra storage for miscellaneous items around the ANDRUS campus. But with an ever growing population of children and staff here at ANDRUS, the need to transform this space became apparent. As our Sensory and Body Regulation Therapies have become tremendously successful on campus, we thought that having a building specializing in these therapies right next to The Orchard School would be a wonderful asset for our children. Thanks to a generous donation from Mary Graf, our newest ANDRUS board member, this dream was able to become a reality. The new sensory barn facility, which opened on September 26 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, hosts therapeutic sensory activities for children enrolled at the Orchard School and to those in residential care on the ANDRUS campus.

Dr. Andrea DeSantis, PT, MSOT, SEP, PhD, who oversees ANDRUS’ Sensory Programs, says “It’s remarkable to watch the transformation. Children can actually change their body states from a fight or flight level of agitation to one that is calm simply by engaging in sensory, breathing and movement activities.” A festive ribbon-cutting and dedication was followed by a Mayoral Proclamation presentation to Mary Graf in recognition of her generous gift that made the Graf Sensory Barn come to fruition. Both Mayor Mike Spano and Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins congratulated Ms. Graf on her private donation and expressed how valuable it was, especially in this day and age of limited city and state funding.

Jace and Fallon demonstrating Sensory techniques

From L-R: Board Chair Jack McLaughlin, President & CEO Bryan Murphy, Mary Graf, Mayor Spano, and Senator Stewart-Cousins